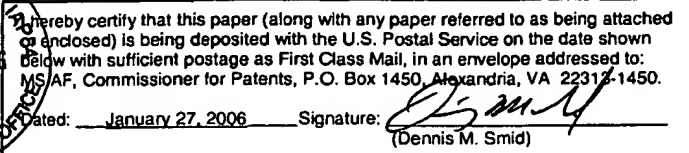


2/7/06



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In response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2005, finally rejecting claims 1-16, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: